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November 27, 1978

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Mr. Lyle Miller
Acting Legislative Counsel
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

OLC #78-3029/E

Kampiles

Dear Mr. Miller:

Enclosed please find an article from the Gary Post Tribune concerning the Kampiles espionage trial. The article mentions the fact that the government is missing top-secret satellite manuals, besides the one Kampiles allegedly sold to the Russian officials.

I am requesting that an immediate investigation be conducted to ascertain the exact location of the missing booklets and to determine how such a mistake could be made in the first place. I am sure you are aware of the impact such an error has on our citizen's already frustrated view of the federal government and its agencies. I would, therefore, appreciate a prompt and extensive clarification of this matter.

Your prompt attention and cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,


Adam Benjamin, Jr.
Member of Congress

ABJ/bs

Enclosure

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Post TRIB 11/7/78

Startling revelation as area spy trial opens

By GARY GALLOWAY
Star-Tribune Staff Reporter

MINNEAPOLIS — United States intelligence linked out Monday when it was revealed 13 top-secret CIA "Big Bird" spy satellites are

The startling revelation came on the second day of the William Peter Kampiles spy trial in federal court here.

Kampiles, 23, a former CIA employee, is accused of espionage for allegedly passing one of those missing man-

uals, No. 155 out of 350 printed, to a Russian agent earlier this year in Athens, Greece.

If convicted, Kampiles, the son of Greek immigrants to this country, faces a possible life sentence.

"Last week," Michael Monico, Kampiles' lawyer, said in his opening statement to the court and jury, "there were 17 of those manuals missing. Now there are 13. Maybe they'll find number 155 and we can all go home."

The government dropped the bombshell about the missing docu-

ments on itself during the opening statement by U.S. Attorney David T. Ready, South Bend, who preceded Monico.

Ready is co-prosecutor in the case with James Richmond, an assistant U.S. attorney assigned to the Hammond office, Richmond formerly served as an agent for the FBI and federal Internal Revenue Service.

Ready also said the government has no eyewitnesses against Kampiles, only his self-incriminating statements to CIA and FBI agents.

Monico says the statements attribute a wild and unfortunate fantasy his

young client carried out earlier this year in Athens.

Monico said the fantasy fulfilled Kampiles' desire to be involved in international travel and intrigue and to do something "meaningful" and "exciting" with his life.

Monico said Kampiles acted out his fantasy one beautiful night in Athens when he walked into a garden cafe and heard the sounds of music coming from a party nearby. The party was at the Russian embassy in Athens, Monico said.

Monico said Kampiles was vacation-

ing in Athens after leaving because of dissatisfaction with his do-nothing, low-key releases and newspaper clippings around the world.

Monico said Kampiles had the CIA with the idea of being an undercover agent but would be years before he would be considered.

Standing outside the Russian Embassy in Athens, Monico said, K-

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Area spy trial opens

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was faced with the "key moment" in his life.

His words sounding as if he were reading a Harold Robbins best-seller, Monico continued:

"Bill had this crazy, dizzy, wild and unbelievable notion to test his dreams of being an agent. He went in (the embassy). It was the worst decision he ever made.

"But his brain was pounding with the excitement of the moment. 'Do it, run with it, here is your chance.'

"And he did. He pretended he was a government worker, what he had imagined himself to be when he was a watch-officer.

"He thought he could return to the U.S. and tell them what he had learned and be accepted, become an agent."

Monico said Kampiles told a Russian military attache later learned to be Mike Zavali that he could pass on information. Eventually, Monico said, a deal was made and Kampiles was given \$3,000 for some "harmless information."

Monico said Kampiles went away with the feeling he "had defeated the Russians at their own game."

The government contends the \$3,000 represented payment for the manual on the KH-11 (Big Bird) satellite, a spy plane secret used to monitor Russian troop movements and

compliance with the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty. The government contends Kampiles sold the manual to the Soviets and has his confession to back it up.

Monico said the "confession" came only after Kampiles was threatened that unless he changed his story — the one in which he lived out his fantasy — his mother and cousin in Greece would be implicated in the matter.

Monico said Kampiles had been with the CIA long enough to know it would "go beyond the law to achieve a desired end."

Monico said the CIA was "paranoid" that a "mole" had infiltrated its intelligence network. He described a mole as a foreign agent slipped in at an early age who "digs in for years" before undertaking his espionage duties.

Monico said Kampiles had "violated the number 1 rule of the intelligence community; people outside the community don't get involved, especially ex-employees, especially young, excitable people."

Monico said the people assigned to the CIA and FBI "Russian squads" decided to "make an example" of Kampiles.

According to Monico, the manual Kampiles allegedly sold the Soviets would be worth millions, not a mere \$3,000.

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